number of steps to reduce maintenance expenditure, which include: closer scrutiny of maintenance requirements to ensure against over-provisioning; indigenisation of larger number of components/spares; induction of fuel efficient vehicles; and reorganisation of units to reduce manpoewr requirement and maintenance expenditure.

Modernisation of Ordnance Depots

3528. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to modernise the Ordnance Depots;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the special surplus Stores Disposal Committee has affected the disposals of surplus, obsolete stores since it commenced functioning;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of revenue which has been accrued to the Army as a result of the disposals of surplus stores?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A Project Report for the modernisation of the Kanpur Ordnance Depot is under preparation. The proposal includes replacement of the World War II vintage storage sheds, built to temporary specifications, by modern, storied storage sheds and modernisation of the handling and fire-fighting equipment.

(c) to (e) The Special Surplus Stores Disposal Committee set up a year ago has disposed of surplus/obsolete defence stores and class A&B vehicles to the extent of 17274 MTs and 4640 numbers, respectively. The total revenue accrued to the Army as a result of such disposal is 68.09 crores.

Use of indigenous items by defence

3529. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence PSUs are taking any measures to indigenous system, sub-systems and components;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the overall indigenous content in the production of Defence PSUs at present?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Defence PSUs are indigenising a large number of assemblies, sub-assemblies and components of a variety of equipment like aircraft/helicopters, warships and auxiliary vessels, communication equipment, radar, optical/opto-electronic equipment, aircraft towing tractors, earthmoving equipment, missiles and a wide variety of sophisticated alloys. oys.

(c) The indigenous content on an overall basis in the production of Defence PSUs is presently around 70 per cent.

Elected Boards in Cantonments

3530. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cantonment areas at present in different parts of the country with details thereof;

(b) the number out of them which have elected bodies at present to run their affairs;

(c) whether Government propose to have elected boards in all cantonments in the country; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?